

Friday 21 August 2026

Paediatric surgery at DGH - message from clinical leadership Some of you may be aware or have heard in the media about recent reviews relating to paediatric surgical services at Dr Gray's Hospital and may be feeling concerned or uncertain about what this means.

We want to reassure you that patient safety remains our absolute priority and appropriate arrangements are in place to ensure children continue to receive safe, high-quality care. The specific clinical teams directly affected by the current arrangements have been fully informed and are working closely together to support patients, families and one another. As part of our commitment to continuous improvement, we have been reviewing decisions, communication processes and governance arrangements associated with paediatric surgical activity over recent months. This review has helped identify areas where we can strengthen how important information is shared and implemented across services, and that learning is already being taken forward.

We recognise situations of this nature can create uncertainty, particularly when information is still emerging. However, we want to reassure you that there is ongoing oversight from ourselves and other relevant senior clinical and executive leaders as we work to ensure the appropriate safeguards, assurance arrangements and improvements remain in place.

Thank you for your continued professionalism, support for one another and unwavering focus on delivering the best possible care for our patients. We will continue to keep you updated as learning develops and where there is information you should be aware of.

'Flu vaccination – making your appointment We are pleased to share dates, times, and locations of dedicated staff vaccination clinics. As a reminder, a free 'flu jab is offered to all NHS staff, and social care who have direct client contact. There is no offer of COVID-19 vaccination to NHS or social care staff, unless you fall into one of the other eligible groups. [Details of clinics are available via this link](#).

Clinics start w/c 7 September. While some of these will be drop-ins, others will be appointment only. Booking is via the national online portal, [accessed using this link](#). When searching the booking portal for available appointments, please scroll down the location menu to 'Staff Clinics'.

Not sure what your username or password are? Don't panic. [The short video available via this link](#) will guide you through the process of recovering them. Taking up the flu vaccination is one of the simplest and most effective ways to protect yourself, your colleagues, and the people you care for. By getting vaccinated, you help reduce the spread of flu, minimise staff illness and absence, and ensure we can continue to provide safe, high-quality care throughout the winter months.

Changes to the job evaluation process All job evaluation activity is now being undertaken in line with NHS Scotland Job Evaluation Framework and Policy. The key changes are:

- Terminology has been updated to align with the national framework and Job Evaluation Handbook. The most significant change is that what was previously commonly referred to as a *regrade* is now referred to as a *changed job*.
- The national Job Description template must now be used for all Job Evaluation submissions.
- The analyst role has been removed from the process. Managers and postholders are now responsible for completing the Job Description using the national template.

[Further information and links to detailed guidance can be found via this intranet link.](#)

'Seating Matters' study day The manual handling team are working with Seating Matters to offer a study day on Thursday 10 September, at the Suttie Centre in Aberdeen. This session will explore the principles of clinical seating and posture management, including supporting posture care, reducing falls risk, and promoting tissue viability. This is a 2-hour session with morning and afternoon availability.

[Booking is via this Turas link \(log-in required\).](#)

Mentoring opportunity MCR Pathways offer mentoring in Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire, delivering schools based and community-based mentoring to young people aged between 12 to 20 years old. We currently offer mentoring across all of Aberdeen City and in Aberdeenshire to Alford Academy, Banff Academy, and Mearns Academy. They look for mentors from all walks of life and are offering information sessions for NHS Grampian staff. If you are kind and caring, you qualify! No prior experience or experience necessary. [Further information and links to the sessions can be found via this intranet link.](#)

That was the week that was

Monday 17 – occupational health service update, reminder of GAPF development day

Tuesday 18 – counter fraud awareness, use of emergency engineering pager

Wednesday 19 – multi-factor authentication – move to Microsoft Authenticator, Fit Testing reminders

Thursday 20 – financial management and budget holder responsibilities, Breathing Space info sessions

All briefs are stored online, [just click this link](#) or visit Working with Us>HR Portal>NHSG Staff Daily Briefs on the NHS Grampian website.

STAR Award Shout out to Tracy Calder, of the north community learning disability team, on her STAR Award presentation. Tracy's friendly and caring nature helps patients feel heard, included, and at ease. Alongside this, she has achieved a distinction in her first year of Open University Learning Disability Nurse training. If you know a team, or individual, STAR, making a nomination couldn't be easier. All you need to do is complete the short form [available via this link](#).

Tune of the day I've got some birthday cheer to spread, so without further ado...Sue Duncanson, admin assistant for the Aberdeenshire CTAC team, has a BIG birthday tomorrow. Her colleagues send all their love and have asked for anything by Harry Styles, I've gone for [As It Was](#). Also celebrating tomorrow is Beverley Jane Ross from haematology labs. Since blood is their business, co-worker Adrian Hunter has requested Marilyn Manson and [If I Was Your Vampire](#).

Since it's Friday, I'm going to chuck in a few more colours tunes as well. Thanks to the anonymous colleague who put forward Nena and [99 Red Balloons](#), to Audrey Masson for suggesting Grace Davies and [Addicted To Blue](#) and Stephanie Baxter who's requested [Going For Gold](#) by the mighty Shed Seven. I've still got heaps of these to work through, so we'll be keeping in colour next week too.

It's my usual end of week benediction to you all; if you're getting a weekend, rest and breathe. If you're working through, have a safe one. Thank you (EP)

If you want to request a tune, follow up on items included in this brief, or suggest an item for sharing, drop us an email via gram.communications@nhs.scot